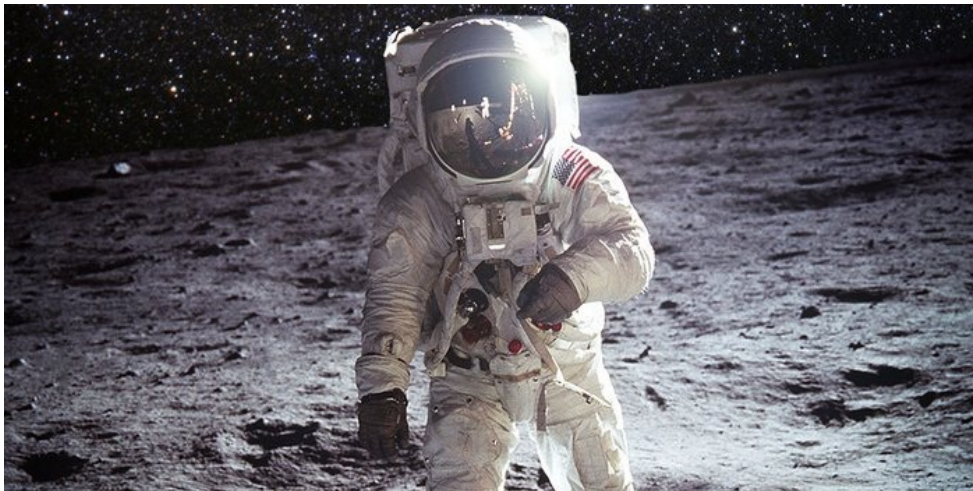


To the Moon...or just the Poles

Numismagram Newsletter #25 (VIII/2019)



This past month, America—along with the rest of the world—reflected upon the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission that finally placed man upon the moon. What started as a challenge in a speech delivered by President Kennedy in 1962 was realized by the end of the decade when Neil Armstrong took “...one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” But this feat of science and determination would not have been possible without man first conquering the skies.

Within a generation following the Wright brothers’ breakthrough in flight, the world was seemingly racing to reach every possible destination by air—from transatlantic flights to expeditions seeking the absolute ends of the earth. The ‘20’s were not just roaring, they were soaring, as explorers set their sights upon the places at which the globe’s lines of latitude and longitude converged—the poles. One such explorer was Norwegian Roald Amundsen, who reached the North Pole by air in 1926 upon the airship *Norge*. He had reached the South Pole previously by land in 1911.



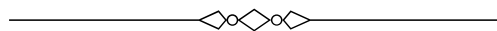
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Meanwhile, American Richard Byrd was set to reach the North Pole by air just a few days after Amundsen. On 9 May 1926, Byrd—along with his copilot—reached the destination before returning to the United States a hero. Just three years later, Byrd would reach the South Pole by air, becoming the first to reach both geographic poles by air.

However, despite all of the fanfare—as well as the striking of the following medal—not all, in fact, may have been as it had seemed, as Byrd's own journals now appear to have been altered, with coordinates erased and apparently replaced with ones that would correctly reiterate his claim. Additionally, reports emerged that his copilot had confessed that they didn't actually accomplish their goal. Byrd's claim is now seen in highly disputed, to say the least.



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w=nQxEVddVxKzhVj04AAZib4QMr4TetGllbOJBaZtkuE.eyJ1ljoiaHR0cDovL251bWlzbWFncmFtLmNv](https://shoutout.wix.com/so/afMnBcQj-/c?w=nQxEVddVxKzhVj04AAZib4QMr4TetGllbOJBaZtkuE.eyJ1ljoiaHR0cDovL251bWlzbWFncmFtLmNv)



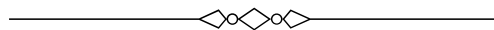
Turning to something much lighter, this month also saw the final table for the annual World Series of Poker in which Iranian-German Hossein Ensan outlasted 8,568 other competitors to take home this year's title...along with an astounding \$10,000,000...



These days, *cardslinging* may be big business, but this wasn't always the case. While casinos and big gambling aren't anything new, there was a simpler time of "gentlemanly" parlor games such as the European classic, whist. This game had numerous variants, though the overall concept involved a strategic approach, played in pairs, whereby each team was attempting to score points through the taking of tricks. Given the scoring method, some form of notation was required, and exnumia presented an answer, as medalists designed various jetons or gaming counters that could be used for this particular task. Now these pieces are seen as an enchanting link between the poker chips of today and the smoke-filled aristocratic parlor rooms of centuries ago...



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This month's upload features an array of aviation types, some alluring nude pieces—*neo-classical*, *Art Deco*, and even *modern*—and another pleasing group of WWI-related medals. Meanwhile, fans of architectural types should eagerly anticipate our September offerings, as we will be aiming to present an upload entirely comprised of these ever-popular designs. To see all 20 new pieces, please visit our site and check out the *Inventory* page, or simply click [here](https://shoutout.wix.com/so/afMnBcQj-/c?w=SYCiiWxClo8i9TIZuH8w93mrFV0FLypFaENb2D3UkkY.eyJ1ljoiaHR0cHM6Ly9udW1pc21hZ3JhbS5jb20vaW52ZW50b3J5Iiwicil6ImU4YmYyZWVjLTlxN2YtNGZhMC1hODM0LWY2YTQzODE3NjE3YiIsIm0iOiJscCJ9) (<https://shoutout.wix.com/so/afMnBcQj-/c?w=SYCiiWxClo8i9TIZuH8w93mrFV0FLypFaENb2D3UkkY.eyJ1ljoiaHR0cHM6Ly9udW1pc21hZ3JhbS5jb20vaW52ZW50b3J5Iiwicil6ImU4YmYyZWVjLTlxN2YtNGZhMC1hODM0LWY2YTQzODE3NjE3YiIsIm0iOiJscCJ9>).

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